General Assembly

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Agenda item 177

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.13 and Add.1)*]

56/8. United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, 2002

The General Assembly,

Recalling the international conventions dealing with the protection of cultural and natural heritage, including the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict adopted at The Hague in 1954[1] and the two Protocols thereto, the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,[2] and the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,[3] and recalling also the 1989 Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore,[4]

Welcoming the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by one hundred and sixty-seven States parties, and noting the inscription of more than six hundred and ninety sites on the World Heritage List,

Mindful of the importance of protecting the world cultural tangible and intangible heritage as a common ground for the promotion of mutual understanding and enrichment among cultures and civilizations,

Noting the work already undertaken to protect the world cultural and natural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including international campaigns,

Welcoming the decisions adopted at the twenty-ninth and thirty-first sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the one hundred and sixty-first session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization envisaging and calling for the proclamation of a United Nations year for cultural heritage,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511.
[2] Ibid., vol. 823, No. 11806.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1037, No. 15511.
[4] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-fifth Session, Paris, 17 October–16 November 1989*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, annex IB.

Taking into consideration the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 2002,

1. *Proclaims* 2002 as the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to serve as the lead agency for the year;

3. *Also invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with States, observers, relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, other international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, to intensify the implementation of programmes, activities and projects aimed at the promotion and protection of the world cultural heritage;

4. *Invites* Member States and observers to promote education and raise public awareness to foster respect for the national and world cultural heritage;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, observers, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to finance and support activities aimed at the promotion and protection of the national and world cultural heritage, including relevant activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

6. *Decides* to devote one day of plenary meetings at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on 4 December 2002, to mark the end of the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, and encourages Member States and observers to be represented in those meetings at the highest level possible;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the activities carried out during the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session an item entitled "United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage".

61st plenary meeting
21 November 2001